

BOARD OF EDUCATION, SCHOOL DISTRICT 149
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS
OCTOBER 22, 2020

The Regular Board Meeting was held via Microsoft Teams and the meeting was called to order at 7:21 P.M. by Mrs. Darlene Gray Everett, Board President.

The Pledge of Allegiance – Said by all

Roll Call: Present: Members: Mrs. Gray Everett, Mrs. Crisler-Liggons, Mrs. Jolly, Mrs. Eldridge, Ms. Ghani, Mr. Castillo and Mr. Tillman.

Also in attendance were: Dr. Shelly Davis-Jones, Twyla Harris, Cedric Lewis, Dr. Brigitte Garth-Young, Carmen Canales, Dr. James Cunneen, Board Attorney, James Vasselli and Board Attorney Tiffany Nelson-Jaworski.

Board Member Comments and Questions –

Mr. Tillman questioned New Business L-2. Dr. Cunneen and Superintendent Dr. Davis-Jones answered with clarity.

Dr. James Cunneen – General Matters of the District

Dr. Cunneen reported three components:

- The first component, a spreadsheet was given to the Board and it listed all the supplies that were bought for the district for COVID. Some of the expenses were put on my credit card because the district needed the supplies immediately and the District was closed during the pandemic. The Board allocated \$250,000 for expenses and thus far a little over \$140,000 was spent.
- The second component, the Superintendent is working on the Hybrid program where each student will have plexi glass shields at their desk. We are also looking into our ventilation system to ensure property air circulation.
- The third component, the District is a leader in alternative certification. We will bring candidates who will have a three-year provisional certificate to the Board. We are working with Roosevelt University on this project.

Comments for Board Members on Agenda – No comments were made

The Business Session began at 7:34 pm

Roll Call: Present: Members: Mrs. Gray Everett, Mrs. Crisler-Liggons, Mrs. Jolly, Mrs. Eldridge, Ms. Ghani, Mr. Tillman and Mr. Castillo.

Meeting Open to the Public for Comments on the Board Agenda – No public comments were made

Board President Consent Agenda

MOTION by Ms. Ghani, seconded by Mr. Tillman to accept the President Consent Agenda items with amending H 1 table the regular board meeting minutes and accept the budget minutes. Include H2, H3, H4, H5 and H6.

1. Amend and table the regular board meeting held September 24, 2020 and accept the Budget minutes held September 24, 2020.
2. Approval of the payroll summaries for September 4, 2020 in the amount of \$1,058,160.69.
3. Approval of the payroll summaries for September 10, 2020 in the amount of \$8,668.66.
4. Approval of the payroll summaries for September 18, 2020 in the amount of \$980,759.52
5. Approval of the payroll summaries for September 25, 2020 in the amount of \$5,935.58
6. Authorize Township Treasurer to pay invoices dated October 22, 2020 consisting of 68 pages and chargeable to the following accounts:

Education Fund	\$1,969,846.17
Operations and Maintenance Fund	\$ 201,089.79
Transportation Fund	\$ 197.42
Capital Projects	\$ 11,250.00
Tort Immunity Fund	\$ 79,683.10

Total \$2,262,066.48

ROLL CALL VOTE: Aye: Ms. Ghani, Mr. Tillman, Mrs. Crisler-Liggons, Mrs. Jolly, Mrs. Eldridge and Mr. Castillo.

MOTION CARRIED

ACCEPT THE PRESIDENT CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS WITH AMENDING H 1 TABLE THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES AND ACCEPT THE BUDGET MINUTES. H2, H3, H4, H5 AND H6

Cabinet Reports –

Dr. Shelly Davis-Jones – Remote/E-Learning Update

I want to thank the parents and guardians who took time to provide feedback about moving to the Hybrid Blended Model. That data is used to help us make effective decisions that impact students and the community. Due to rise in COVID-19 cases across the city and suburbs, I am asking the board to consider extending the MOU listed on the agenda. This MOU allows teachers the flexibility to continue reporting in a few days and week and continue working remotely. We are working diligently to have the Hybrid Blended Model ready on January 4, 2021.

I have shared with all certified staff that during the holidays it is so important that everyone practice extra safety and precautions to minimize the spread of COVID-19 by wearing your mask daily, 6 feet social distancing and washing your hands as often as possible. If you feel sick, please do not come to work, contact your building principal and work from home. If you are too sick to work from home, please inform your building principal by calling her cell phone, so she can schedule a guest teacher for your classroom. Refrain from using emails because sometimes emails may not post in a timely manner.

Over the last few months, we have shut down some schools for cleaning and sanitizing due to suspected cases of COVID-19 and staff who have reported they have been in contact with someone who tested positive for COVID-19.

Board Member Tillman has expressed his concern regarding the length of time the school building is closed after an occurrence.

He also stated, "If the school building has been cleaned, disinfected and sanitized, which is intended to kill all the C-19 virus, why then would the building be closed for an extended length of time? Mr. Tillman stated, "I can imagine a myriad of problems with the education of our students because of constant disruptions when students come back to the buildings for learning not to mention the disruption to the parents and guardians who has schedules (jobs, school, Etc.) and have to figure out children two weeks at a time."

At this time, we have taken each school who has reported someone has either tested positive or a staff member has been in contact with someone who tested positive. A lot is involved in making decisions to ensure teachers and staff feel that their safety is a priority.

What we have done is made contact with the staff member and asked detailed questions to determine who they came in contact with, the specific date and time, and where they traveled throughout the building and how much time did they spend in the same space with that person. Contact tracing is also a big part of our decisions. We also are required to contact the Cook County Department of Public Health on all positive cases. If a staff has contracted COVID-19 we have closed a school to have the entire building cleaned and sanitized. This process has been extended to ensure our custodians and external team cleaned, disinfected and sanitized every school office, door knob, glass, bathrooms, lounges, and classrooms thoroughly.

Two weeks ago at my superintendent meeting, I was informed that the guidelines that were posted on the CDC were not approved by Dr. Fauci and scientists. Politicians, posted up their guidelines so, this flawed system has caused us to take extra precautions. I believe we will all feel more confident about our procedures once the new CDC guidelines are posted after the November 3rd election. We want to ensure that the guidelines we are following are approved and supported by the epidemiologists and scientists.

Before students return to in-person learning we will revisit the guidelines and hope they will be placed on the CDC website by licensed certified epidemiologists and scientists. Right now, according to my colleagues, schools with in-person learning have been faced with a myriad of challenges. Some students have attended school ill and evidenced symptoms and some students and staff have tested positive for COVID-19. Superintendents in other school districts have closed down classrooms for 14 days and the entire buildings due to multiple cases and resumed to full remote learning. If teachers, staff or any students test positive they are required to have two negative COVID-19 test before they return to work or school in-person.

I want to emphasize that the closing of a building had no effect on our distance learning to our students, this continued without interruption. The decision to close a building when students are not attending is different than closing a building when students are in attendance. When we close a building nothing changes for our students nor our parents. In that case, we err on the side of caution. When students return to in person learning we will have a different criteria based on the new CDC guidelines and it will be more clear after November 3rd. I will share those in full detail as soon as they are available.

This week and part of next week students are testing so teachers can determine the instructional deficits. Data will be analyzed, so principals and teachers can focus on mitigating students' academic losses and begin to tailor their delivery of instruction and reteach identified skills to help students progress forward.

I would like the Board to consider flexibility with the school district calendar due to all of the virtual meetings and planning. We would like to switch the half day school improvement from Friday October 23rd to Friday October 30th for the purpose of professional development training on Charlotte Danielson's training on remote learning and teacher evaluation. The professional development will be conducted by Dr. Courtney Orzell on Friday October 30th for principals from 10:00 am -12 noon and for all teachers from 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm.

I would also like the Board to consider approval of the parent agreement regarding the provision of remote education and group teletherapy for special education and related services confidentiality. Since everyone is remote learning social workers want to ensure that recording be prohibited due to rights and privacy of other students in sessions.

Dr. Brigitte Garth-Young – The Great Deployment Update

The Great Device Deployment was a huge success. Here are some takeaways from this historic experience:

- Curbside pickup began **October 5, 2020, on schedule**. One school per day was deployed with the exception of DKM and BV which were both done on October 8, 2020. Scheduling time intervals were in place for each grade span.
- Device staging and canopies were courtesy of the Technology Department, Mr. Khalfani, and COTG-XEROX.
- Security guards and law enforcement were present on the days of curbside deployment to manage traffic and help to maintain order.
- The Tech Team in collaboration with COTG-XEROX volunteers and extended district custodial assistance facilitated and managed the curbside deployment.
- District and Building Administration were available to assist with the deployment as needed.
- The community was receptive and prepared to receive their new technology!
- The Chromebook Agreement and instructional documents were made available to parents in both English and Spanish.
- The tech team has been providing on-going district credential assistance and other help as it relates to getting started with the Chromebook device.
- A video tutorial has been provided to all staff, all students, and posted to the website on how to login to your Chromebook for the first time.
- An iUNIVERSITY is being planned for the community to give tips on how to navigate the website, district login credentials, and getting acquainted with the Chromebook device/Google Classroom.
- Building Administration has been facilitating the process of teachers receiving their Chromebook device.

- Building Administration is working alongside the technology department for those parents who were not able to make the curbside deployment. Appointments have been made with parents for pickup.
- Procedural safeguards are in place for devices that may need to be replaced. Also, planning for additional hotspot deployments is underway.

I want to express my sincerest gratitude to the Board of Education and the Superintendent for this historic opportunity. I also want to thank everyone for their support to make the Great Device Deployment a huge success!

Mrs. Gray Everett expressed a job well done to Dr. Garth-Young on the deployment of the Chromebooks.

Superintendent Dr. Shelly Davis-Jones gave the board an update regarding the cutting of underbrush and lower limbs of trees on the Dorchester property with C & T Landscape.

Mrs. Crisler-Liggons asked a question regarding C & T Landscape maintaining the property. Superintendent Dr. Shelly Davis-Jones and Dr. Cunneen answered with clarity.

Old Business

<p>MOTION all in favor to consolidate I program renewals and K Old Business items 1 and 2.</p> <p>I. Program Renewals</p> <p>Approve Fuel Education /Stride Academy Student Licenses for all 8 schools</p> <p>K. Old Business</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Approve the cutting of underbrush and lower limbs of trees on the Dorchester in the amount of \$10,400 with C& T Landscape. 2. Consider revising the public school calendar to change the half-day school improvement from October 23 to October 30 for professional development training and change the calendar to reflect virtual programs and events as needed during the remainder 2020-2021 school year. <p>ROLL CALL VOTE: Aye: All in favor said yes. MOTION CARRIED</p>	<p>CONSOLIDATE I PROGRAM RENEWALS AND K OLD BUSINESS ITEMS 1 AND 2</p>
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New Business

<p>MOTION by Ms. Ghani, seconded by Mrs. Crisler-Liggons to consider censure of a Board member and take final action on the same. ROLL CALL VOTE: Aye: Ms. Ghani, Mrs. Crisler-Liggons, Mrs. Eldridge, Mr. Castillo, Mr. Tillman and Mrs. Jolly. MOTION CARRIED</p>	<p>CONSIDER CENSURE OF A BOARD MEMBER AND TAKE FINAL ACTION ON THE SAME</p>
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<p>MOTION all in favor to consolidate L New Business Items 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">2. Need a motion to establish negotiations committee and set negotiation calendar dates.3. Need a motion to change the Board policy deviation with the Illinois Association of School Boards from Press Plus Subscription to Press.4. Need a motion to approve the Parent Agreement regarding the Provision of Remote Education and Group Teletherapy services for special education and related services during COVID-19.5. Need a motion to waive the First Reading of PRESS Policy 102.6. Need a motion to adopt PRESS Policy 102. <p>ROLL CALL VOTE: Aye: All in favor said yes. MOTION CARRIED</p>	<p>CONSOLIDATE L NEW BUSINESS ITEMS L2, L3, L4, L5, AND L6</p>
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<p>MOTION by Mrs. Crisler-Liggons, seconded by Mr. Cstillo to appoint Mrs. Eldridge as Secretary Pro-Temp. ROLL CALL VOTE: Aye: Mrs. Crisler-Liggons, Mr. Castillo, Ms. Ghani, Mrs. Gray Everett and Mr. Tillman. MOTION CARRIED</p>	<p>APPOINT MRS. ELDRIDGE AS SECRETARY PRO- TEMP</p>
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Approval of Personnel

<p>MOTION by Ms. Ghani, seconded by Mr. Castillo to approve M Approval of Personnel New Hires Items A and B.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">A. April Palmer Confidential Administrative Assistant Business OfficeB. Fares Nimiri St. Xavier student now certified teacher <p>ROLL CALL VOTE: Aye: Ms. Ghani, Mr. Castillo, Mrs. Crisler-Liggons, Mrs. Eldridge and Mr. Tillman. MOTION CARRIED</p>	<p>APPROVE M PERSONNEL NEW HIRES ITEMS A AND B</p>
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Correspondence - None

Bulletins and Reports - None

Public Comments - None

Superintendent Dr. Shelly Davis-Jones gave the board an update regarding the MOU Agreements and a \$5,000.00 stipend for the Head Nurse and the District Maintenance for the year.

MOU Agreements

<p>MOTION by Mrs. Eldridge, seconded by Mrs. Crisler-Liggons to approve the MOU Agreements A, B and C.</p> <p>A. CTA-Teachers Working from Home 1st and 2nd Quarter and Daily Expectations B. SPCA- External Cleaning Company and Staggered Shift C. South Suburban Community College and Dolton SD 149 Alternative Teacher Certification</p> <p>ROLL CALL VOTE: Aye: Mrs. Eldridge, Mrs. Crisler-Liggons, Ms. Ghani Mr. Castillo and Mr. Tillman. MOTION CARRIED</p>	<p>APPROVE MOU AGREEMENTS A B AND C</p>
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<p>MOTION by Mrs. Eldridge, seconded by Mrs. Crisler-Liggons to approve the MOU Agreements D with a \$5,000.00 stipend for the year.</p> <p>D. Head Nurse</p> <p>ROLL CALL VOTE: Aye: Mrs. Eldridge, Mrs. Crisler-Liggons, Ms. Ghani, Mr. Tillman and Mr. Castillo. MOTION CARRIED</p>	<p>APPROVE MOU AGREEMENT D</p>
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<p>MOTION by Mrs. Crisler-Liggons, seconded by Ms. Ghani to accept the MOU Agreement E with a \$5,000.00 stipend for the year.</p> <p>E. District Maintenance</p> <p>ROLL CALL VOTE: Aye: Mrs. Crisler-Liggons, Ms. Ghani, Mr. Tillman, Mr. Castillo and Mrs. Eldridge. MOTION CARRIED</p>	<p>ACCEPT MOU AGREEMENT E</p>
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Dr. Garth-Young read the comments from the Q&A feed.

In the school board agenda under new business it stated that on September 24th that a license would be purchased for Zoom to support remote learning for the 2020-2021 school year. Has this license been? Approved for the teachers? When will this be available? Dr. Garth-Young answered with clarity.

Adjournment

MOTION by Mrs. Eldridge, seconded by Mrs. Crisler-Liggons to Adjourn at 8:22 p.m.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Aye: Mrs. Eldridge, Mrs. Crisler-Liggons, Ms. Ghani, Mr. Castillo and Mr. Tillman.

MOTION CARRIED

ADJOURNMENT

Darlene Gray Everett, President

Bertha Jolly, Secretary